

Some have said that the present rules governing media ownership are outdated. Some of the rules are only a few years old. The Constitution is much older, and the Ten Commandments are older still, but they are not outdated merely because of their age. Good rules and regulations do not become obsolete merely because of their age. Media companies make millions of dollars each and every year. They do so because they have been granted monopoly use of public property, the airwaves. The rules are there to protect and to benefit the public. Any rule changes should be made only after the public is convinced change is necessary. For that to happen the public needs to know what is going on. The public needs to be part of the process. So far, it appears that the public has been left out and industry representatives have been included, even catered to, at every turn. Announcements to the public have been almost silent for much of this process. Industry has had a great deal of time to make its views heard. It appears that the media industry has privileged access to the FCC and the public has limited access.

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.